



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213 (310) 659-0205
Dick Rosengarten, Publisher

VOL. XV
No. 2

JAN 11, 1993

GOV. PETE WILSON'S STATE-OF-STATE ADDRESS.

Editor's note: CALPEEK will analyze Gov. Pete Wilson's State-of-the-State address and his budget message in next week's newsletter. This week CALPEEK comments on the dismal TV coverage of this key speech...

...Pete Wilson may not be the most charismatic speaker in Calif., but for the second year in a row, TV coverage of Wilson's State-of-the-State address was at best very poor. In 1992, there were NO L.A.-based TV stations which carried the 5 p.m. speech live --- and only one this year, KCAL-TV. Several L.A. stations which were up in Sacto in 1992 to cover the speech on a news basis, were missing this year --- KABC and KNBC. So was KRON-TV from S.F....

...Also missing live coverage was the new Calif. Channel, which many cable TV systems take. The 5 p.m. speech is past the Calif. Channel's 4 p.m. deadline. C-SPAN didn't carry the speech either and probably won't play it on a delayed basis...

...BOTTOMLINE: Perhaps TRADITION should be broken and the annual State-of-the-State speech be given earlier in the day, even in the morning. That's no guarantee, but this important speech deserves better TV coverage. Stay tuned...

L.A. CITY ELECTION: ISSUES THAT INFLAME.

Editor's note: If there is one thing that can be said of the upcoming Apr. 20th L.A. City primary election, it's that Calif.'s largest city is BADLY DIVIDED and the prospects for healing wounds won't be helped by the increasingly hot political rhetoric used by some candidates running for mayor and the city council. Here is a brief report & analysis on the BALKANIZATION of L.A., with a look at HOT issues...

...The term BALKANIZE means to break up

into small mutually hostile political units. In the case of L.A., what's happening is that the divisions are not only occurring along racial lines, but along geographic lines as well...

- L.A. SCHOOLS - The nation's 2nd largest school district is in horrible shape. Massive budget cuts, a threatened teachers strike in February and the perception that LAUSD is out of touch and control, is one of the hotter issues with voters. Ironically, the mayor and council have no authority over the schools, but candidates who FAVOR breaking off the San Fernando Valley to form their own school district are making gains. Some see this issue as the Valley vs. South Central L.A. - or a black vs. white issue. VERY HOT...

- ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS - The U.S. Govt. has failed miserably at controlling the flood of illegal immigrants coming across the U.S. southern borders. Question: are the huge numbers of illegals putting a massive strain on L.A. City/Co.'s health & welfare system? The perception is YES and mayoral candidate Tom Houston, former deputy mayor and a LIBERAL, is making good headway in exploiting this issue. Conversely, mayoral candidate Julian Nava, a former school board member, touched off a firestorm of controversy by advocating that LEGAL aliens that are not yet citizens be given the right to vote in local elections. This issue has really touched a raw nerve...

- CRIME - Always a hot topic, and even more so in 1993 with TWO very high profile trials coming up (The Denny trial and the federal trial of 4 cops in the Rodney King case). Will there be more rioting? L.A. voters are very worried that the cry of "No justice, no peace" will be heard numerous times in the months ahead. The fear

{Continued Next Page}

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK (ISSN 0195-6175) IS AN INDEPENDENT, NONPARTISAN NEWS ANALYSIS BULLETIN OF CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK, INC., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION. TELEPHONE: (310) 659-0205. ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213. \$90.00/YEAR. PUBLISHED WEEKLY, 44 WEEKS PER YEAR. COPYRIGHT BY CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK, INC. THIS TRADEMARK REGISTERED WITH THE CALIF. SEC. OF STATE. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR PART REQUIRES EXPRESS PERMISSION. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. 1ST CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT LOS ANGELES.

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

is most pronounced in the white community, but that doesn't mean that L.A.'s minority community isn't also scared -- they are...

- TAXES - But are L.A. City voters worried enough to hike their property taxes to add 1,000 more cops to the L.A.P.D.??? We'll have to see, because the council has decided to try this proposal one more time. A similar measure just missed passage last November, getting a 63% vote (it needed a 2/3rds vote). If the situation were more settled in L.A., taxes might be a hotter issue. CALPEEK sources say taxes are on the front burner, but on LOW HEAT...

- TERM LIMITS - Mayoral candidate Richard Riordan's term limit proposal has qualified for the April 20th ballot, but it's NOT considered a hot issue. As one GOP consultant noted, "It's APPLE PIE and will pass without any trouble." As for POLITICAL ETHICS, sources say this topic will heat up from time to time during the election debate, but like term limits, it is not a wedge issue in L.A. Stay tuned...

SPECIAL ELECTION UPDATE: ORANGE CO. GAMES.

Editor's note: This week CALPEEK takes a look at the 32nd S.D. special election in Orange Co. Gov. Pete Wilson has called the special for Mar. 2nd (that will also be the date for several others specials around the State). Here's our update...

...About 3 weeks ago there were several strong contenders looking things over in this vacant State Senate seat recently abandoned by new U.S. Rep. Ed Royce(R). The latest drop outs include the first person to declare, Brian Bennett, and former Orange Co. GOP Party chair Lois Lundberg, now a political consultant. With Bennett and Lundberg OUT, that leaves almost a clear field for businessman/hardline conservative contributor Rob Hurtt. Many, but not all CALPEEK sources, agree that Hurtt, with an ability to spend millions of his own money to build name ID and a political organization, has a decided edge in this special...

...Still testing the waters is Santa Ana Mayor Dan Young. Some believe he has a shot because he has fairly good name ID and what some feel is a good record in office. Young just won reelection over John Acosta last Nov. 3 by a 60-40 margin. That's on

the plus side. On the negative side is the fact that hardline conservatives are NOT totally comfortable with Young --- a former Demo who switched parties several years ago. Some see Young as a political opportunist...

...Are there any others who are looking this special over? Perhaps. At least one CALPEEK source believes there will be another serious entry into this special...

...Back to Bennett. MONEY was a concern, but more important, Bennett told CALPEEK that he did not want to get into a slugfest with another respected conservative. This is now the second or third time that Bennett has backed out of elections. He was basically promised the Royce seat last year the Orange Co. GOP establishment if he did NOT run for an open assembly seat in 1992 that was eventually won by Curt Pringle. Everything was moving in that direction until Hurtt jumped in and messed up the unofficial agreement. CALPEEK sources say if Bennett had stayed in the race, it might have turned very bitter. Hurtt has hired McNally-Temple & Associates to run his campaign...

...FYI: In the 16th S.D. special in Kern & L.A. Counties, the Mexican Amer. Legal Defense & Education Fund (MALDEF) filed suit in U.S. Court to force the State to hold this special within the NEW reapportioned boundaries. MALDEF lost the 1st round and has now appealed. If MALDEF should win, the 16th S.D. becomes a SUPER Demo registration district. Right now the registration stands at about 49% Demo vs. 40% GOP. Stay tuned...

LAW FIRM TO HOLD SEMINARS ON POLITICAL LAW.

The law firm of Nielsen, Merksamer, Parrinello, Mueller & Naylor will conduct two seminars on political law. The first one is set for Jan. 14 at the Sheraton Grande Hotel, L.A. Cost is \$80. The second one is set in Sacto on Jan. 21 at the Hyatt Regency. Cost is \$60. For info about the seminars (415)389-6800...

CARAL & COMMONWEALTH CLUB HOST WEDDINGTON.

Sarah Weddington, the attorney in the Roe v. Wade case, will address members of the Commonwealth Club of CA, 11:45 a.m., Jan. 29, Sheraton Palace Hotel, S.F. Weddington's speech is titled, "A Question of Choice." For info (415)597-6705...

CALPEEK'S ETCETERA: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

- S.F. NEWSPAPER WAR - The best thing the S.F. Examiner had going for itself, political columnists Andy Roth & Phil Matier, have jumped ship to S.F. Chronicle. Next to Herb Caen, Roth & Matier's The Insiders column is probably the most popular newspaper column in S.F. Roth & Matier begin work for the Chronicle on Jan. 18th. The "new" INSIDERS team for the SFEx are Jane Ganahl & Barbara Taylor...

- CONTINUING SAGA OF DORNAN VS. PADBERG - The running feud between hardline conservative U.S. Rep. Bob Dornan of Orange Co. and arch-enemy GOP campaign consultant Eileen Padberg is now in Round 3. In Round 2, Dornan requested that the Orange Co. GOP Central Cmt. censure the Judy Ryan for Congress Campaign -- which Padberg managed. Dornan didn't like some of the hard-hitting direct mail pieces sent out by Ryan's team. To no ones surprise, the GOP central committee sided with Dornan and condemned the Ryan campaign. But there is NO punishment. "What are they going to do," says Padberg. "Make me vote for Democrats?"...

- HORCHER VS. BRULTE - When GOP Assemblyman Paul Horcher(R-Diamond Bar) accepted the vice chairmanship of the powerful W&M Cmt., GOP Assembly Leader Jim Brulte let it be known that this was NOT a friendly act. Brulte wanted Dean Andal to be the vice chair. To say that there is no love lost between Brulte and Horcher is an understatement. There even has been some speculation that Brulte might attempt to have Horcher booted out of the GOP Assembly Caucus. That hasn't happened --- yet. But if it does, sources say Horcher will simply become an independent. QUESTION: Was Horcher the only GOP candidate on Speaker Willie Brown's list for vice chair of W&M? NO. Also on the list was B.T. Collins and Chuck Quackenbush. Where did these suggested names come from? CALPEEK sources say the list came from Gov. Pete Wilson's office...

- WILL HERSCHENSOHN GET HIS JOB BACK? - CALPEEK sources say that former KABC-TV commentator Bruce Herschensohn has held discussions with his former bosses at the L.A. TV station, but there hasn't been any indication that Channel 7 is willing to re-hire the 1992 GOP U.S. senate nominee...

- GREAT X-MAS GIFT - Mendocino Co. Sup. Liz Henry was FINALLY declared the winner in her reelection bid over rival Heather Drum by a Lake Co. judge. On Nov. 3, Henry won by 1 vote, the closest election in the U.S. An official recount demanded by Drum added two more votes for Henry. Then Drum sued to overturn the entire election, but on X-Mas eve Judge Arthur Mann ruled in Henry's favor. Henry's campaign was run by consultant Luke Breit...

- S.F.'s MAYOR JORDAN: ONE YEAR LATER - A new poll in the S.F. Examiner (1/4/93) by pollster David Binder, shows that S.F. Mayor Frank Jordan is in DEEP TROUBLE with voters after only one year in office. Jordan's reelect percentage stands at just 20.9% in the poll. And in a match with 5 other potential rivals, Jordan gets only 26%. Sup. Angela Alioto gets 17%, former Mayor Art Agnos gets 15%, Assembly Speaker Willie Brown gets 10%, Sup. Carole Migden gets 6%, Sup. Kevin Shelley gets 4% and 22% are undecided. The only real positive thing in the poll was the reaction to Jordan's drive to keep the S.F. Giants. The controversy over the Giants has died down, but Sup. Terence Hallinan is leading a referendum to overturn a recent Board of Supes decision to rent Candlestick Stadium to the new Giant management team for \$1 per year. Stay tuned...

AAPC TO HOLD MEETING AND GIVE OUT POLLIES. Political consultants will gather in Crystal City, VA, Jan. 21-23 for the 1993 American Assn. of Political Consultants(AAPC) conference. In addition to some lively discussions about the just completed round of Federal and State elections, the AAPC will hand out its "Pollie" awards --- which go to consultants who produce the most outstanding political ads. The conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City. For additional info, contact Blythe Egan at Cerrell Associates in L.A. (213)466-3445...

TO CALPEEK SUBSCRIBERS: CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

If you're planning to move or have already done so, PLEASE send CALPEEK a change of address notice/letter WITH your current CALPEEK mailing label. The label contains a code which makes it easy to quickly process the change of address. Or call us with the code numbers. Thanks...

CA INITIATIVE UPDATE: ATTORNEY'S FEES.

Editor's note: Here is a brief update on a new initiative in circulation...

• "REASONABLE ATTORNEY'S FEES" is the official title of a statute sponsored by Norman J. Bedford of Citizens for Justice for All (707)433-7841. The measure says, "The prevailing party in all civil law cases shall, as part of the judgement, be awarded reasonable attorneys fees." Bedford has until May 27 to collect 384,974 signatures to qualify...

FERGUSON'S 1992 CALL FOR GOP UNITY ISN'T THE FIRST TIME HE HAS MADE THIS APPEAL...

While most insiders and opinion molders expressed amazement at hardline GOP Assemblyman Gil Ferguson's recent call to unify the CA Republican Party by removing the CRP's anti-abortion plank, it isn't the first time that Ferguson has made this pitch. In an essay written in December of 1989, titled, "Abortion: Don't Let It Continue To be A Wedge Issue," Ferguson said, "There is room in our party for both pro-life and pro-choice Republicans, there always has been. Republicans by their very nature are very individualistic. We will probably never have unanimity when it comes to issues like abortion. However, we shouldn't let these emotional issues be divisive to our party's best interest."...

...This 1989 statement came shortly after PRO-choice GOPer Tricia Hunter and PRO-choice Demo Lucy Killea won special elections, where ABORTION was a key issue in the campaign...

...FYI: First reaction to Ferguson's appeal from hardliners Bay Buchanan and Susan Carpenter McMillan was nearly identical. Both said that the CA Republican Party should NOT abandon its PRO-Life stand on abortion or its hardline views on other social issues. Many moderate PRO-choice Republicans are pleased by Ferguson's statement, but are waiting to see what develops in the next few weeks. CALPEEK will check reaction to Ferguson's appeal at the upcoming CRA quarterly BOD meeting Jan. 15-17 in L.A. Stay tuned...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

• Demo campaign consultants Leslie Winner and Felicia Bragg have ended their partnership. Winner has opened Leslie Song Winner & Assoc., 600 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1505, L.A. 90017 (213)629-5414...

• Long-time McClatchy political editor Martin Smith has retired after 35 years with both the Modesto & Sacto BEE. He'll be spending time at the UC Berkeley Inst. of Govt. and will be a contributing editor to the BEE. John Jacobs of the S.F. Examiner is Smith's replacement...

• Consultant Michael Dieden has opened new offices at 739 Tenth St., Ste. C, Santa Monica, CA 90403. (310)451-7413...

• Long time aide to L.A. City Atty. Jim Hahn, Chuck Fuentes, will resign soon to become chief of staff to newly elected Demo Assemblywoman Grace Napolitano of Norwalk. Fuentes has been on leave from Hahn's office since summer and ran Napolitano's general election campaign...

• George Opacic, field rep with former GOP Assemblyman Bill Baker, has relocated to the L.A. area where he has taken a job as COS to newly elected GOP Assemblyman Bill Hoge...

• Candy Lightner has renamed her victims' rights organization as Americans Against Crime - AAC PAC. The new address is 17374 Sunset Blvd., Ste. 142, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272...

• Campaign consultant Marty Wilson has closed his own shop and has joined Burson-Marsteller PR in Sacto...

• Member Matt Fong has been elected vice chair of the Board of Equalization...

CALPEEK'S COPYRIGHT: COPYING OF THIS NEWSLETTER WITHOUT PERMISSION IS AGAINST LAW..

Copying of this newsletter without permission is AGAINST THE LAW and is a violation of our copyright. If you are aware of the illegal copying, especially the regular copying of our entire newsletter and distribution to non-subscribers, please call us at (310)659-0205.